

SENATE BILL 2931

By Berke

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, Part 3, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-3-3__.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Classroom expenditure" means any expenditure by an LEA for activities directly associated with the interaction between teachers and students, including, but not limited to, materials, technology and resources necessary to conduct classroom instruction and salaries and benefits for teachers and educational assistants. "Classroom expenditure" does not include the costs of administration, school operations and maintenance, transportation, instructional support such as media centers and professional development, and student support services such as nurses and guidance counselors; and

(2) "Total operating expenditures" means all operating expenditures by an LEA during a fiscal year, including expenditures from federal, state and local funds and from any other funds received by a local school system, including, but not limited to student activity fees and gifts. "Total operating expenditures" does not include capital outlay expenditures, debt or bond payments, interest on debt or bonds, facility leases or rental payments.

(b) Beginning with fiscal year 2008-2009 and for each fiscal year thereafter, each LEA shall report annually to the department of education the amount of classroom expenditures made by the LEA in a fiscal year and the percentage of the total operating expenditures that such amount represents. The amount of classroom expenditures and the resulting percentages shall be reported both by district and by each school. The report shall be filed with the department by September 1 following the close of a fiscal year.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, beginning with fiscal year 2012-2013, each LEA shall spend a minimum of seventy percent (70%) of its total operating expenditures on classroom expenditures. In fiscal year 2014-2015 such percentage shall increase to eighty percent (80%) and by fiscal year 2016-2017 and for fiscal years thereafter such percentage shall be ninety percent (90%). Such percentage shall apply to expenditures made on a district-wide basis and on a per school basis.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.